

District Judge James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL,

Plaintiff,

v.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Defendant.

Case No. C18-1387 JLR

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Plaintiff SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL filed the above-captioned lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") against Defendant U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ("DOI"), seeking disclosure of certain documents. On May 3, 2019, the Court, at the parties' request, ordered the parties to (1) continue to work toward resolution of this matter without further judicial intervention and (2) submit a joint status report within the next 60 days. Dkt. No. 23.

Accordingly, the parties submit this joint status report to explain to the Court how they are working toward resolution of this matter. First, DOI continues to produce responsive documents on a regular basis as they become available. Second, the parties are now in discussions of prioritizing production of more recent documents, which requires a supplemental search and processing. The initial search was done on a multi-bureau level involving various parties and multiple overlapping litigated requests. The

1 more recent documents, in contrast, are uniquely responsive to Sea Shepherd Legal's  
2 request. At this time, a supplemental search and processing of more recent documents  
3 implicates other DOI resource issues that must be resolved prior to a commitment by  
4 DOI. Sea Shepherd Legal has asked DOI for an expedited determination as to whether it  
5 will prioritize production of these more recent documents. DOI is working to respond to  
6 this request in an effort to avoid motion practice.

7 Counsel for the parties have conferred and intend to continue to work together on  
8 these issues. The parties respectfully request that they be allowed to submit a joint status  
9 report within the next 30 days. If at any time in the next 30 days it becomes apparent that  
10 resolution between the parties is not feasible, the parties will submit a joint briefing  
11 schedule to the Court.

12 **SO STIPULATED.**

13 Dated this 24th day of June, 2019.

14 s/ Brett W. Sommermeyer  
15 BRETT W. SOMMERMEYER, WSBA # 30003

16 s/ Catherine E. Pruett  
17 CATHERINE E. PRUETT, WSBA # 35140

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23 Attorneys for Plaintiff

24 **SO STIPULATED.**

25 Dated this 24th day of June, 2019.

26 BRIAN T. MORAN  
27 United States Attorney

28 s/ Michelle R. Lambert  
MICHELLE R. LAMBERT, NY # 4666657

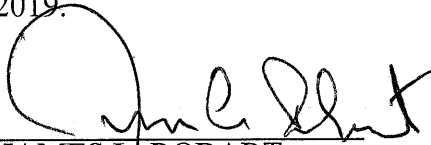
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Attorney for Defendant

**ORDER**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated this <sup>u</sup>25 day of June, 2019.



JAMES L. ROBART  
United States District Judge